

# The Congregational Church of Westborough

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

57 West Main, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

April 19, 2026



Photo by Deb Boucher

**WE WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS!**

We are an "Open and Affirming" Church



## **WELCOME!**

To our worshipping community, especially to parents: God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house! We welcome you and your child/ren. Children are a gift to the church and a reminder that the church is growing. May our church be a place where we give smiles of encouragement to parents!

Are you visiting with us today? We are glad you are here!  
WHETHER YOU HAVE JOINED US BY PHONE, IPAD, OR COMPUTER

We celebrate "OPEN DOORS and GROWING FAITH"  
"No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here."

## **CONTACTS AND INFORMATION**

*Rev. Betsy Dorsi, Pastor* – [Rev.Betsy.Dorsi@uccwestboro.org](mailto:Rev.Betsy.Dorsi@uccwestboro.org)  
*Joseph Stillitano, Director of Music* – [joseph.stillitano@uccwestboro.org](mailto:joseph.stillitano@uccwestboro.org)  
*Linda Borglund, Director of Christian Ed* – [Linda.Borglund@uccwestboro.org](mailto:Linda.Borglund@uccwestboro.org)  
*Sue Menzel, Director of Bells* – [westcongmusic@gmail.com](mailto:westcongmusic@gmail.com)  
*Lisa Coffey, Administrator* – [Lisa.Coffey@uccwestboro.org](mailto:Lisa.Coffey@uccwestboro.org)  
*Ariana Dello Stritto, Communications Coordinator* - [Ariana.DelloStritto@uccwestboro.org](mailto:Ariana.DelloStritto@uccwestboro.org)

*Office hours: Tuesday – Friday 9am – 1pm  
Monday - Closed  
Church office phone 508/366-2000*

*General Church email - [info@uccwestboro.org](mailto:info@uccwestboro.org) Church website- [www.uccwestboro.org](http://www.uccwestboro.org)  
[www.facebook.com/TheCongregationalChurchofWestborough](http://www.facebook.com/TheCongregationalChurchofWestborough)*

## **Statement of Inclusion**

We, the people of The Congregational Church of Westborough, United Church of Christ, believe that all people are created equal, in God's image. "We are all God's children." In our journey of faith, we strive for justice and equality for all. We invite and welcome into our community and into the full life and Christian ministry of this church, persons of every race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, family structure, faith background, economic circumstance, mental and physical ability. We say, and mean, "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." We declare ourselves an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing our belief in diversity and inclusion. We seek to be a faith community centered in Christ, ready to proclaim the Gospel and seek to grow through the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. We offer to each person acceptance and the responsibilities and blessings of participation in this congregation.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WESTBOROUGH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

*\*The Congregation is invited to stand.*

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (SHOWN ONLINE AND ON THE SANCTUARY SCREENS) 9:45 AM

CHURCH BELLS TO CALL US 10:00 AM

INVITING THE WORD

WELCOME Rev. Betsy Dorsi

\*OPENING MUSIC

\*JoySpring Songbook #37 “Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)” John Newton,  
Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio

\*JoySpring Songbook #6 “God of Wonders” Marc Byrd and Steve Hindalong

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Barbara Noeth

One: The road is long.

**Many: God is with us.**

One: We face many trials and temptations.

**Many: God is with us.**

One: We have fears and doubts.

**Many: God is with us.**

**All: Let us worship the God who never leaves us alone.**

\*GATHERING PRAYER (unison) Barbara Noeth

**Jesus, You surprised us with great joy on Easter! You rose from death to life again and left an empty tomb guarded by angels. You met with Your disciples a few at a time and showed them that You had really risen. Meet with us now as we gather to hear Your story, offer prayers and sing Your praise. Be known to each of us, make our hearts warm inside us as You reveal Your presence. We ask this in Your precious name and continue in prayer using the words You taught us...**

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Barbara Noeth

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.**

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Jesus, every time we remember the Easter story, we are filled with hope and joy. Much of the rest of the time we forget how much You love us. Forgive us for getting so wrapped up in our daily lives that we don't take time for You. Forgive us for the times we are in despair or feel overwhelmed and forget that You are right here ready to ease our burden. Help us keep You at the center of our lives. Help us keep our hearts set on You and to share Easter joy with others. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

**RECEIVING THE WORD**

TIME WITH THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

SCRIPTURES

Luke 24:13-35

*(pew Bible page 860)*

SERMON

"Holy Union"

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

\*HYMN #561

"It Is Well with My Soul" (vs 1-3)

VILLE DU HAVRE

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Barbara Noeth

Invitation

*At this time, let us all reflect on how much God has given us and on what we have chosen to give God back for God's ministry. The morning offering will now be received.*

Offertory Anthem

“Black Sheep”  
Performed by Joseph Stillitano

Ben Fuller, Michael Farren,  
and Tony Wood

*You broke through a thousand fences, been rescued from a thousand ditches.  
You still swear you don't fit in, so you kick and scream and you're gone again  
Wandering off into the devil's wind.*

*But how's it going out there? Acting like you ain't scared...  
How's that heart of stone? Ain't so hard when you're alone.  
Crying tears you hope nobody sees. Guess the good news is He'll never leave you be.  
Jesus loves you black sheep.*

*You hate everything about you. You think we're better off without you.  
You wear your pain out on your sleeve and you paint it on in rebel ink,  
But the alcohol and pills ain't fixed a thing.*

*Can't tell you when, I ain't no prophet.  
But there'll come a point in time when you can't stop it.  
The Good Shepherd's love smells like smoke.  
There ain't no hell so low where He won't let the hounds of Heaven go.  
Sic 'em, let the hounds of Heaven go.*



“For online giving, scan QR code with your phone’s camera”

\*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Barbara Noeth

We dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, of love, of peace. Receive our offering and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen.

BEING THE CHURCH

\*CLOSING HYMN #224

“Christ Arose!”

CHRIST AROSE

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Betsy Dorsi

\*POSTLUDE

**Barbara Noeth** serves as liturgist today.

**Linda Borglund** is deacon of the day.

Prayers

Bereavement: Family and friends of Harriet Markert.

Continued Prayers: Ted Jaworski & Betty; Elaine Moore; Julia O'Neil-Welsh; Sue Menzel; Bev & Doug Hall's son Jeremy; Jackie Smith; Adam Beckloff, Linda Birch's nephew; Carolyn Bent; Diane Travers; Judy Ellis's daughter, Syreeta Peddlesden; Ron, brother-in-law to Betty & Ted; Betty Simino; Debbie Grega – Amy Glennon's mother; Betty Gray's niece Heather; Cathie Achorn's sister-in-law, Lorie Mumby.

*Progressive Dinner*



PARISH LIFE

The Progressive Supper will be on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is more information and a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, or you can call or text Cathie Achorn at 508-380-8671. The deadline to sign up is April 26<sup>th</sup>. Come join the fun as we go from one house to another for appetizers and dinner. We will all meet at 8:30 PM for dessert and fellowship at the church. Your Parish Life Committee, Cathie, Linda and Sandy

CHURCH YARD SALE

The YARD SALE at The Congregational Church will be on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 am -3 pm and Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> from 8 am -2 pm, with the "bag sale" starting at 1 pm.

Beginning today, you may drop off clean, resalable items in the library. Monday and Tuesday the church will be open from 8am - 3pm for drop-offs and Tuesday and Wednesday from 6-8 pm. No more donations will be accepted after Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pm so we can prepare for Friday sale set up.

This is a good chance for ALL BOARDS and COMMITTEES to check your storage areas and downsize to contribute items for sale. ALL proceeds for this fundraiser go to the kitchen renovations. Thanks, Yard Sale Team

We **ARE** accepting: Small furniture, Baby items that do not have expiration dates

We **ARE NOT** accepting: Hardcover books, Expired baby items, Electronics/TV, Medical supplies, Hazardous materials, Clothing/shoes, VHS tapes

## MISSIONS

**Westboro Food Pantry** - For the month of **April**, the Westborough Food Pantry is in need of the following: *Jello, Mustard, Salad dressing, Relish*. The Westborough Food Pantry has thanked us for our continued support in helping to feed local families in need. Please continue to consider donating additional (non-perishable) food of all sorts to the white box. Thank you. The Mission Team

**Dismas House** – Do you like to cook for people who really appreciate your efforts? If so, please consider making a meal for the men at Dismas House. The men are working towards re-assimilating back into a normal life with friends and family after time in prison. They really love home cooked meals. If you can cook a meal but can't deliver it, we can probably arrange to bring the meal. If you are a first-timer, one of our team can go with you. You can stay for dinner with the men or simply deliver the meal. Nothing fancy, just a tasty meal. If you can help, please contact Pam Faustine at 978-505-7031 or [pfaustine@princeton-ma.us](mailto:pfaustine@princeton-ma.us)

### WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES ON WESTBOROUGH TV

Exciting news from our collaboration with Westborough TV! Our Sunday services will be replayed TWICE a week every week. You'll be able to watch us on **Mondays at 6:30PM** (please note, this is a half hour later than we have been), and again on **Thursdays at 6:30PM**. As a reminder, we're on Verizon channel 2124 (High Definition) and Verizon 24 & Charter 191 (regular definition)

**Apr 19**  
10:00AM

**Apr 20**  
7:00 PM

**Apr 21**  
6:30 PM  
7:00 - 8:00 PM

**Apr 22**  
3:30 – 4:30 PM  
6:30-8:00 PM

**Apr 23**

**Apr 24**  
10AM-3PM

**Apr 25**  
8AM – 2PM

**Apr 26**  
10:00 AM

**Sunday**  
Worship Service & Faith Formation

**Monday** – office closed  
Board/Board Room

**Tuesday**  
Building Committee/Board Room  
Bell Rehearsal

**Wednesday**  
Journey Home Singers  
Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday**

**Friday**  
Yard Sale

**Saturday**  
Yard Sale

**Sunday**  
Worship Service & Faith Formation

